

**TO LOVE A**  
**NARCISSIST**

**A Film by Raffaello Deguttola**



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**NARCISSIST**

LYNDSEY MARSHAL   RAFFAELLO DEGRUTTOLA   SULE RIMI   ANDREA LOWE   NATHALIE ARMIN   STEPHEN CAMPBELL MOORE

**A CONTRO VENTO Films Production**





**Trust is Weaponised**  
**“You are the knife I turn**  
**inside myself; that is love.**  
**That, my dear, is love.”**

**Franz Kafka, Letters to Milena**



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CONTRO VENTO FILMS PRESENTS "TO LOVE A NARCISSIST"

LYNSEY MARSHAL, RAFFAELLO DEGRUTTOLA, STEPHEN CAMPBELL-MOORE, SILE RIMI, NATHALIE ARMIN, ANDREA LOWE, ED HAYTER, BENEDETTA DE BENI, CINEMATOGRAPHER JAMES BURGESS AND IVAN RIGHETTI, SOUND RECORDISTS CALLUM BENTLEY AND MACKIE ALEXANDER MCLAREN-TABBADA, BY PRODUCER JORDAN PLETTS, CHOREOGRAPHY KATE WEBSTER, SCORE MICHAEL CASSEY AND SOMER BINGHAM, EDITOR CHARLES LORT-PHILLIPS, SOUND DESIGN RICHARD SPOONS, PRODUCERS RAFFAELLO DEGRUTTOLA, SADIE KAYE, ANNABEL MARTIN, LEILA MOUSAVI, AND ERICA BERGSMED, EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TED FIELD, SADIE FROST, BILL BOSSERT AND LYNSEY MARSHAL, DIRECTED AND REVISED BY RAFFAELLO DEGRUTTOLA

## To Love A Narcissist: January



INT: CLOSE UP OF APARTMENT BUZZER. BUZZ  
Charlotte walks into frame

**CHARLOTTE**

Hello... Hello? Who is it?

**ROBERTO**

Number 3 I hope

**CHARLOTTE**

I told you to stay away

**ROBERTO**

I tried

**CHARLOTTE**

I'm no good for you

**ROBERTO**

I know

**CHARLOTTE**

Will you go away the neighbours are  
watching

**ROBERTO**

Can I come up for a minute

**CHARLOTTE**

The kids are coming later

**ROBERTO**

I have a proposition for you





# CONCEPT

Raffaello Degruittola is a BIFA-nominated Anglo-Italian Actor-Writer-Director and the founding director of Contro Vento Films. After his BIFA nomination for Best British Breakthrough with **'Flim'**, Raff directed his first dramatic feature. **'Transference: a Love Story'** received global attention for going viral on YouTube, where it has now been viewed over 27 million times. Inspired by the reaction to the film, Raff immediately started working on another resonant toxic love story with many of the same team and a brilliant new cast.



## TRANSFERENCE

A Love Story



This film delves into the complexities of a passionate post-marriage relationship for characters Charlotte and Roberto. It begins with a dating app, evolving into an intense promise of love and a chance for meaningful experiences. They grapple with past mistakes, striving to give their current relationship a genuine opportunity for growth.

The central dilemma surfaces as they confront their own narcissism, hindering acceptance of each other. The narrative unfolds as they attempt to relinquish old, traumatic ways of relating, resorting to each other's emotions as a defense against losing control and fearing love's loss again.



Viewers may relate to the characters' personalities as the story progresses, and the blurred lines between narcissism and societal norms become more apparent. Can we break free from destructive relationship patterns and interpret the world differently? The film raises questions about free will versus the influence of past experiences and personality traits on our future decisions. Can Charlotte and Roberto truly embrace their faults and sensitivities, allowing them the possibility of being loved? Simultaneously, the narrative explores today's swipe culture, where the hope for a better future perpetually lies in virtual possibilities rather than the present moment. The film prompts reflection on whether we can escape this cycle and whether our choices are truly ours or shaped by past experiences. As the story concludes, the audience is left pondering who the true narcissist is – Charlotte, Roberto, or the part of us that justifies one in response to our internal limitations.





@controventofilms' cinematic roots trace back to Italian neorealism of the 1940s, a pivotal movement in film history. This influential shift consciously distanced itself from Hollywood-style filmmaking, emphasizing realistic characters and narratives.

The genre explored themes such as moral ambiguity, social inequality, and depicted economic hardships with deep sympathy for characters.

Our work at @controventofilms takes inspiration from this neorealistic foundation but ventures into fictionalized storytelling. We are influenced by the prevailing cultural backdrop and the impact of a self-focused society on the disadvantaged and social inequalities.





**THE CAST**

# LYNDSEY MARSHAL



Lyndsey was born in Manchester, England. She attended *Old Trafford Junior School* and *Lostock High School*. After studying the classics at college for a career in archaeology, she applied to the *Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama*. Her first major part was in the play **Fireface** at the Royal Court Theatre, which she took just before graduation. In 2001 she won the *Critics' Circle Theatre Award* for Best Newcomer in 2001 for her performances in **Redundant** at the Royal Court Theatre and **Boston Marriage** at the Donmar Warehouse. In 2003, she won the *TMA Theatre Award* for Best Supporting Actress in **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. Since then she has performed leading roles in 14 theatre productions, most recently alongside James McAvoy in the 2009 West End production **Three Days of Rain**. In 2011 she appeared in **Greenland** at the National Theatre.

Lyndsey has appeared in the films **The Hours** alongside Nicole Kidman, and **Hereafter**, directed by Clint Eastwood. Marshal starred as Cleopatra in HBO's **Rome**. Since 2009 she has played Lady Sarah Hill in the three series of the BBC One drama **Garrow's Law** and, with Julie Walters, in the BBC TV film **A Short Stay in Switzerland**. She starred also in ITV's new series of **Agatha Christie's Marple**.

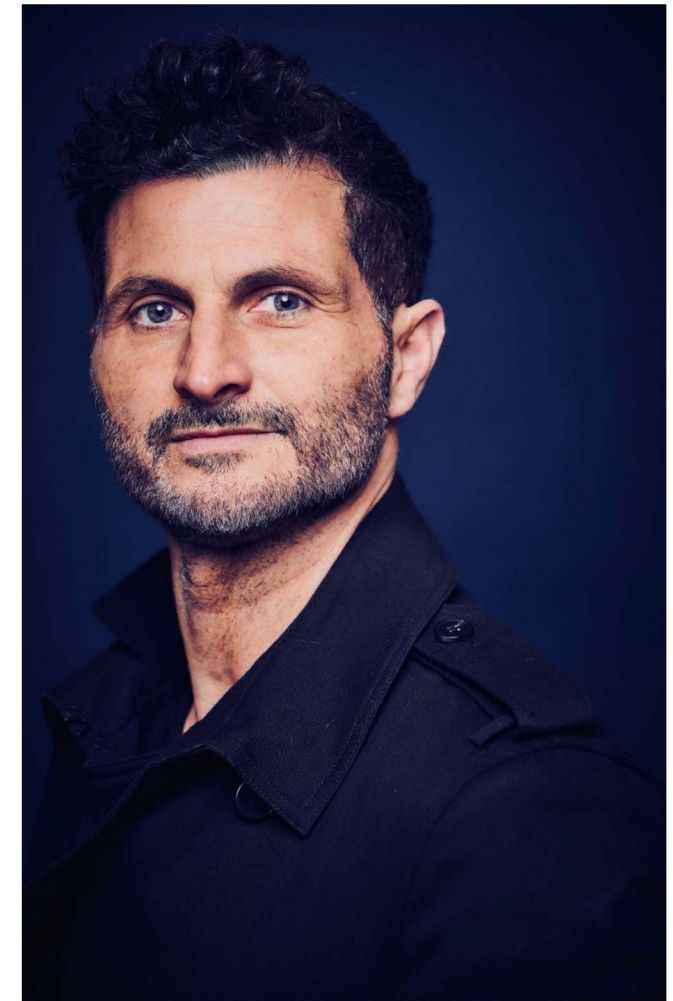
In January 2013 Lyndsey played Eileen Blair, wife of Eric Blair, in the BBC Radio 4 drama **The Real George Orwell** - Homage to Catalonia.



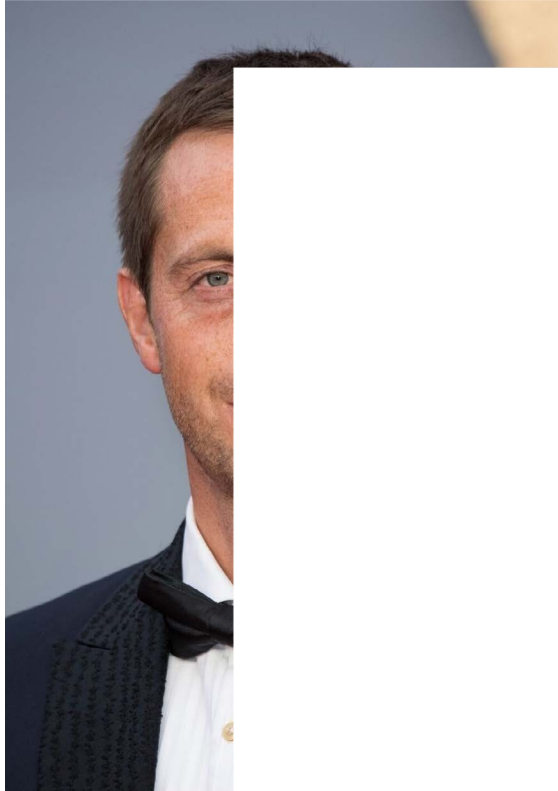
Raffaello, an Anglo-Italian Actor-Writer-Director, was born in Barnet, North London, England to Francesco DeGruttola and Lina Lipizzi who immigrated from Ariano Irpino, Italy in 1970. Raffaello joined the *Sylvia Young Theatre School* in Central London, where he trained until the age of 16 before joining The Lee Strasbourg Theater Institute in London. Raffaello spent time living in the US and the UK working extensively in TV and Film, including playing Private Goldman in Steven Spielberg's **Saving Private Ryan**. Thereafter he continued working as a character actor in a variety of American and European films with notable directors including Ron Howard (**Rush**), Micheal Apted (**Unlocked**), Chris Addison (**The Hustle**) Richard Attenborough (**In Love And War**) and Mike Nichols (**Wit**) In 2010 he wrote and directed his first 30min drama '**The Other Side of My Sleep**', inspired by the death of his father and grandmother. Following the film's success in opening the *Boston Film Festival*, Raffaello went on to shoot his first feature film '**Flim-The Movie**' - shooting for one day a week over 18 months whilst constructing the story around improvisation to influence the next scene. 'Flim The Movie' was nominated for a *Moet British Independent Film Award* following its selection for the *Raindance Film Festival* and *The NYC Independent Film Festival*. Heavily influenced by the Danish Dogme 95 rules of film making, Italian Neo Realism and NY cinema of the 70's & 80's, Raffaello went on to write and direct his second feature film, a psychological love story that tackles the corrosion of a relationship to concealed and unresolved mental health issues. '**Transference: A Bipolar love Story**' was selected for the *Arizona and*

*Buenoa Aires International Film Festival* and received the Jury Award at *SRFF* in NYC.

# RAFFAELLO DEGRUTTOLA



# STEPHEN CAMPBELL MOORE



Stephen Campbell Moore is a British actor best known for **'The History of Boys'** and **'War of The Worlds'**. Born in London, the actor trained alongside Orlando Bloom at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Campbell Moore created the role of Irwin in the original West End stage production of Alan Bennett's play **'The History Boys'**, and also played the character in the Broadway, Sydney, Wellington and Hong Kong productions and the film version of the play. In 2004, he starred as Lord Darlington alongside Scarlett Johansson in **'A Good Woman'**. In the same year, Campbell Moore played the part of Hugh Stanbury in Andrew Davies' BBC adaptation of Anthony Trollope's novel **'He Knew He Was Right'**. In 2024, he starred in **'Masters of The Air'** alongside Callum Turner and Austin Butler.

# SULE RIMI



Sule Rimi is known for **'Andor'** (2022), **'Black Earth Rising'** (2018), **'Death in Paradise'** (2011) and **'Strike Back'** (2010)

# NATALIE ARMIN

Natalie Armin is a British actress known for **'The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies'** (2014), **'Maigret'** (2016-2017), **'Too Close'** (2021) and **'Juice'** (2023).



# ANDREA LOWE



Andrea Lowe is an English actress known for **'DCI Banks'** (2010-2016), **'Route Irish'** (2010), **'Love Life'** (2012) and **'Sherwood'** (2022)



Executive Producer

# Ted Field



Ted Field's career is distinguished by over 30 years of success as a businessman and an entertainment executive. He founded Interscope Communications to develop and produce films in 1984, and produced his first hit, **'Revenge of the Nerds'**, the same year. Since that early success, he has gone on to become one of Hollywood's most successful entertainment executives with an exhaustive track record in film and music. Mr. Field has produced over 80 movies that have generated over \$9 billion

in worldwide revenue, including such hits as **'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle'**, **'The Last Samurai'**, **'Runaway Bride'**, **'Jumanji'**, **'Three Men and a Baby'**, **'Mr. Holland's Opus'**, **'The Hand That Rocks the Cradle'**, **'Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure'**, **'Cocktail'** and the **Texas Chainsaw Massacre'**.

Mr. Field co-founded Interscope Records, operating as a top creative and management force behind one of the most successful record labels in history. Albums produced under his labels have sold over 300 million copies worldwide, driven by some of the industry's top-selling artists. In 1999, he entered into agreements with Seagram's Universal Music unit to sell the remaining stake at an enterprise value of \$500 Million.

Mr. Field has also had a successful history as a business executive and entrepreneur outside of his interests in motion pictures, music and television. His Business portfolio has included, among other ventures, owning and running newspapers, television stations, motion picture equipment companies, commercial real estate, digital ventures and various conglomerates. He has consistently demonstrated an ability to substantially increase the value of companies with which he is involved and to monetize holdings in a timely fashion.

Radar has been and will continue to be Mr. Field's primary full-time focus indefinitely.

Executive Producer

# Sadie Frost

With over three decades in film, theatre and television, Sadie Frost is producer, actor, fashion designer and author, starring in such films as Bram Stoker's **'Dracula'**, TV dramas such as **'Uprising'**, and working with directors including Francis Ford Coppola and Paul W.S Anderson. In 1999, Frost set up production company Natural Nylon with fellow actors Jude Law, Ewan McGregor and Jonny Lee Miller, which went on to produce the science fiction/horror feature **'eXistenZ'** in 1999, followed by **'Nora'**. Frost then went on to co-produce the Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow starrer **'Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow'**. Frost then set up her own fashion label Frost French, on which she worked extensively throughout the 2000s. In 2012, Frost co-founded the production company Blonde to Black Pictures with producer and long-term friend Emma Comley. Dedicated to developing challenging and quality films, whilst also nurture exciting new talent, the pair regularly work with debut feature directors including Ben Charles Edwards for Set the Thames on Fire and Tom Beard's Two for Joy.



Producer

# Sadie Kaye



Sadie Kaye has worked as a TV & radio host, writer and producer in London, Paris and Hong Kong. Her humour column series **'Sharp Pains'** received nominations from the *New York Festivals Radio Awards*, *On Air Fest* and *International Women's Podcast Awards*. Her documentaries have won awards from the Association for International Broadcasting. Her humour columns, rants and musings on mental health have been published in Hong Kong publications and anthologies. She is an ambassador for mental health charity Mind HK. Sadie met Raff when they were cast in a West End play together as siblings. This family dynamic stuck and they have collaborated many times on film and TV projects, including **'FLIM'** and **'Transference'**.

Producer

# Bill Bossert



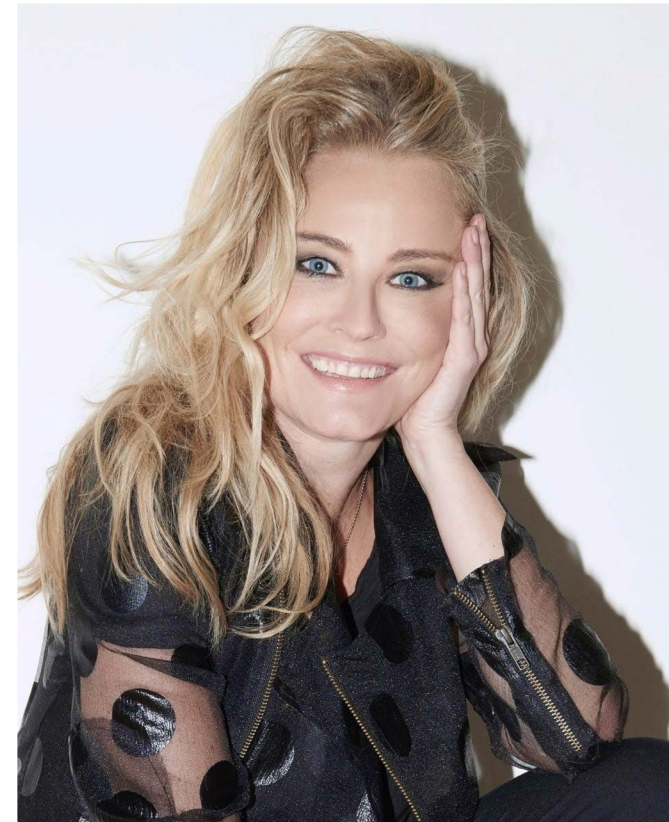
Bill met Raff Degruittolla during the making of the feature, **'Seeking Dolly Parton'** and re-united with Raff in 2020 as creative/executive producer of **'Transference: A Love Story'**. It was during the filming of *Transference* that Bill was asked to join Contro Vento Films. Aside from Contro Vento, Bill has helped in the production of several short films in the last two years, among them **'Bobby Jaws'**, **'The Love You Want Exists'**, **'Notice to Quit'**, **'Type Till You Bleed'** and **'Swipe Right'**

Producer

# Erica Bergsmeds

Erica Bergsmeds is an award winning Film Director, producer and creative.

Imdb titles include **'LA Swedes'** (1886), **'Midnight shop and Fallen Dream'**, a female empowerment story that won several "Best Film" awards on the festival circuit, starring Laura Whitmore and Kimberly Wyatt.





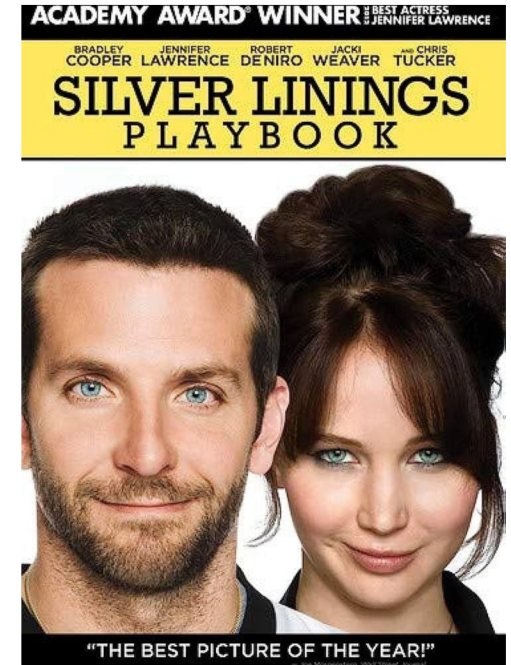
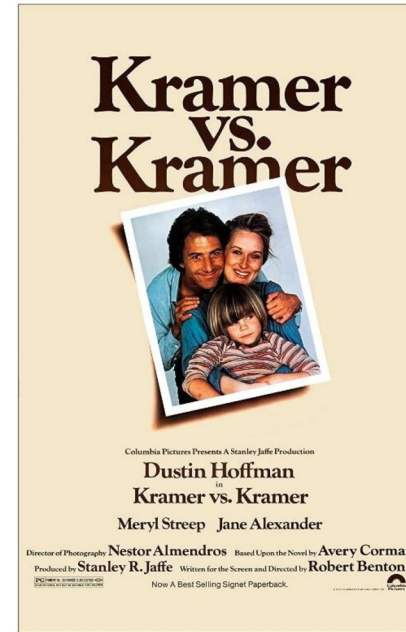
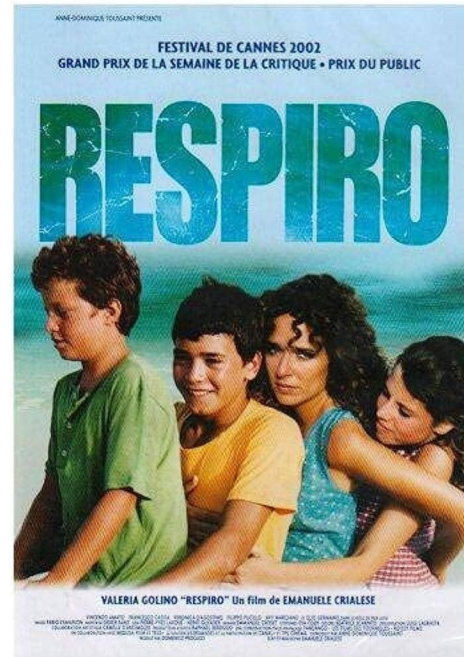
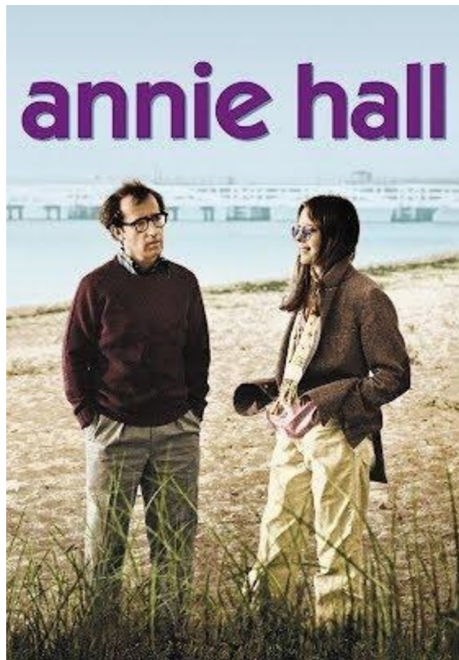
# MOOD







# SIMILAR MOVIES



# THANK YOU

**If you want to know more about the project or if you're interested in supporting us, please contact us.**

**Email:** [info@controventofilms.com](mailto:info@controventofilms.com)  
[raffd@mac.com](mailto:raffd@mac.com)

## **Websites:**

[controventofilms.com/to-love-a-narcissist](http://controventofilms.com/to-love-a-narcissist)

[toloveanarcissist.com](http://toloveanarcissist.com)

## **2025 Trailer**

[vimeo.com/1032603335](https://vimeo.com/1032603335)

## **Additional Information:**

[filmfreeway.com/RaffaelloDegruttola](http://filmfreeway.com/RaffaelloDegruttola)

[variety.com/2024/film/global/sadie-frost-raffaello-degrutto- la-to-love-a-narcissist-1236028426/](https://variety.com/2024/film/global/sadie-frost-raffaello-degrutto- la-to-love-a-narcissist-1236028426/)

[film-directory.britishcouncil.org/to-love-a-narcissist](http://film-directory.britishcouncil.org/to-love-a-narcissist)